

- 8 -

**Claims**

1. A covering for application to a surface top comprises  
i) a semi-permanent adhesive layer to be in contact with the top,  
5 ii) a clear carrier layer,  
iii) a display layer which is printed on the carrier layer,  
wherein the table covering is arranged such that when applied to a surface top the  
nature of the covering is not readily visible except for the printed area, permitting the  
surface top to be visible through a substantial portion of the covering.

10

2. A covering as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising a substrate of release paper to  
be removed before application of the covering to a surface.

15

3. A table covering as claimed in Claim 1, arranged to cover substantially all of the  
surface top.

20

4. A covering according to Claim 1, 2 or 3, in which the covering is made to cover  
substantially the whole of the surface top, but the display layer is substantially less in area  
than the carrier layer.

5. A covering according to Claim 1 or 2, which is of a size and/or shape suitable to  
extend only over a part of a surface top.

25

6. A covering as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the clear carrier layer has a  
thickness of not more than 100 microns.

7. A covering according to any preceding claim, in which the thickness of the clear  
carrier layer is in the range 10 to 100 microns.

30

8. A covering according to any preceding claim, in which the thickness of the clear

- 9 -

carrier layer is in the range 15 to 70 microns.

9. A covering according to any preceding claim, in which the clear carrier layer is a polyethylene terephthalate film.

5

10. A covering according to any preceding claim, which includes a layer of polymer film which is to protect the display layer and is glued over the display layer by means of a second layer of adhesive.

10 11. A covering according to Claim 10, in which the layer of polymer film is made from clear oriented polypropylene.

12. A covering according to Claim 10 or 11, in which the layer of polymer film has a thickness in the range 5 to 20 microns.

15

13. A covering according to Claim 10, 11 or 12, in which the layer of adhesive is a clear EVA adhesive.

14. A covering according to Claim 10, 11, 12 or 13, wherein , the layer of polymer film is a material approved for food contact applications.

20

15. A covering according to preceding claim, which comprises additionally a second layer of release paper on the surface of the covering opposite to said substrate, the second layer of release paper being an aid to handling of the covering during its application to a surface top.

25

16. A covering according to any preceding claim, in which the printed display layer is discontinuous.

30 17. A covering according to any preceding claim, in which the semi-permanent

- 10 -

adhesive layer comprises a solvent-based water clear acrylic adhesive.

18. A covering according to any preceding claim, wherein the clear carrier layer is a polymer.

5

19. A table covering comprising a covering as claimed in any preceding claim for application to table, wherein said surface top is a table top.

10 20. A method of finishing a table top which comprises providing a smooth table surface which is free of protuberances and applying to the table top a table covering in accordance with any one of the preceding claims, the layer (i) of release paper being removed from the table covering to allow the semi-permanent adhesive layer (ii) to adhere to the table top.

15 21. A method of finishing a table top according to Claim 20, in which the table covering includes a second layer of release paper on the surface of the covering opposite to the said substrate, to facilitate handling of the table covering.

20 22. A method according to Claim 20 or 21, in which the edge or edges of the table covering which are on the table top are not more than 50 mm, from the edge of the table top.

25 23. A method according to Claim 20, 21 or 22, in which the table covering is of a shape and size to wrap over a part or parts of one or more edges of the table top to which it is applied.